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ORGI SALT

Ex-Director Of CIA Says Senate Must Ratify The SALT II Treaty

William E. Colby, a former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Thursday urged ratification of the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT II), saying, "We are a lot better off with the treaty than we are without it."

Colby said that adoption of the treaty by the U.S. Senate will halt the nuclear arms race and allow the nation to concentrate on conventional Soviet threats.

He said treaty ratification will save the American taxpayers \$50-\$100 billion because it would stop the need to develop new nuclear weapons systems to counter Soviet threats.

IN SHARP contrast to congressional critics of the treaty, Colby said verification is not a problem with the treaty.

"Our intelligence can absolutely tell us about Soviet weapons development and production," he said.

Colby, now an attorney, made his remarks to the Economic Club of Indianapolis in the Indiana Convention-Exposition Center.

He said that America's spy service had made some "stupid and some wrong" moves during its existence since World War II.

"The agency was created by a presidential commission that directed it to be more ruthless than the opposition and by a Congress that said it didn't want to know what was happening."

"WITH A directive like that, the Fish and Wildlife Service would have gotten into trouble," he said.

He urged the U.S. to resume engagement in "covert" operations in foreign countries. "To say we support an ally (like the Shah of Iran) but to refuse

to help him is a contradiction in terms," he said.

By assisting moderates in foreign governments, the U.S. can make sure the people of those nations won't be faced with the choice between a right-wing Dictatorship and a left-wing terrorist group, he said.

He said that the greatest threat to world stability is the chance that nuclear weapons will be developed by Third World nations, adding that South Africa, Brazil, Taiwan and Argentina could develop those weapons.

He told the audience of about 950 persons how the CIA observed the construction and outfitting of a Soviet aircraft carrier and "when it sailed into the Black Sea, it was no surprise to us."

"The question is this: Are we petty-foggers looking for absolute evidence for some little variation—a quarter of an inch on the side of an absolute state—or are we interested in the protection of our country and the ability to make an agreement to move ahead to these kinds of new restraints that will help us as well as the Soviets."

Colby said the agreement must be ratified before the "next generation of Soviet leaders take over the government."